

From: bobh@anarres.optimizations.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 10:54am
Subject: Comments on proposed Microsoft settlement.

Dear Sirs,

The proposed settlement is a travesty of justice. Microsoft was found guilty of violating their previous settlement agreements, behaving in a particularly un-competitive way, and through the whole trial has thumbed their noses at the law. No where in the settlement are they taken to task for their serious misbehavior - and it is serious, Microsoft is big enough to be a symbol, do we want other businesses to behave this badly?

The settlement does little to affect Microsoft, and has few if any real remedies. At this point Microsoft should be on notice that ANY misbehavior will result in a swift and stern response.

At the very least, ALL of Microsoft's existing and future data formats and the means to interoperate with them should be made public. It should not be up to Microsoft to pick and choose who their competition might be.

Failure of a Microsoft service to work with another vendor's product - because of that other vendor's id only (as in the recent MSN debacle) should be treated as a violation of the interoperability requirement.

Microsoft is driven by greed. Greed is a dangerous thing to reward.

Thank you for your consideration.

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